



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., speaks to Boys & Girls Clubs during Native American Summit at Seminole Tribe in Florida

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., honored two national leaders of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America at the Native American Summit in Hollywood, Fla., last week.

He said that because of their efforts, Navajo children have been afforded more opportunities, and early members are now in college.

Both men have been significantly involved in club development in Indian Country and continue to show their unwavering support for Club development on the Navajo Nation.

The summit was held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino as part of its strategy to further develop and strengthen more than 200 clubs that serve more than 141,000 Club members in Indian Country.

Hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the theme of the conference was *"Celebrate Our Youth and Culture: A Journey from the Past into the Future."*

Building on the premise of partnership and collaboration, participants invited to attend the conference included tribal leaders, federal and state government representatives, club professional staff, and board volunteers, as well as corporations with an interest in serving youth in Native America.



Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., presents a Navajo Nation Pendleton blanket to Rick Goings, chairman of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for all he has done for Native kids who belong to BGCA.

Before more than 200 participants, the President congratulated Mark Piccirilli, president of First PIC., Inc., and a Boys & Girls Clubs Native American National Advisory Council member, and Rick Goings, the former chairman of BGCA's Native American National Advisory Council and current Chairman of BGCA's Board of Governors.

The President stressed the need for people to work together for the good of the youth who are the future of the nation. He met with Eugenia Tyner-Dawson from the U.S. Department of Justice and various other tribal leaders.

The delegation from the Navajo Nation included Marilyn King-Johnson, director of the Department of Youth, and Lamont Yazzie, program manager for the Boys & Girls Club Expansion Office within the Office of the President and Vice President.

Mitchell of the Penobscot Nation, Eugenia Tyner-Dawson, senior advisor to the assistant Attorney General for Tribal Affairs and Executive Director, Justice Programs Council on Native American Affairs, U. S. Department of Justice, and Leo Nolan, senior policy analyst for the Indian Health Service.



President Shirley presents a gift to Mark Piccirilli, President of FirstPic Inc.

Specific government agencies that were represented include the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Office of Native American Programs, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Dine Nation currently serves 500 members in six club sites on Navajoland, and more than 5,000 children through outreach. Two new sites will open in the coming months in Shiprock, N.M. and Chinle.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America comprises a national network of more than 3,900 neighborhood-based facilities annually serving some 4.6 million young people, primarily from disadvantaged circumstances. Known as "The Positive Place for Kids," clubs provide guidance-oriented programs on a daily basis for children aged 6-to-18 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff.

Key programs emphasize character and leadership development, educational enhancement, career preparation, health and life skills, the arts, and sports, fitness and recreation.

Its Native American Initiative began in 1992 with the opening of a club on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Since then, it has expanded to serve more than 141,000 Native American youth in 86 tribal communities and 25 states.

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The three-day conference included educational tracks for leadership and staff to share experiences and strategies to build sustainability.

Other featured speakers included Mitchell Cypress, chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, T. Dana